

**Joseph, Trevor M.**

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**From:** Harvey [hvandyke@bishopwireless.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 08, 2011 11:07 AM  
**To:** Joseph, Trevor M.  
**Cc:** Mark Drew  
**Subject:** Inyo-Mono IRWMP Round 1 Implementation Grant Proposal Evaluation

Dear Mr. Joseph,

Our district, the Wheeler Crest CSD, was one of several entities that submitted a proposal as part of Inyo-Mono's IRWMP Round 1 Project Implementation Application. We are a small district managed and operated by volunteers in a rural mountainside locale. We have no paid employees and do not have the financial capability to employ consultants.

Having reviewed DWR's proposal evaluation of our region's proposal, I would like to present some of the difficulties that a small water purveyor had in trying to be responsive to DWR's Implementation PSP. I appreciate the difficulties DWR has in evaluating projects of such varied natures. Our specific project was for a very simple need – to replace an aging, poorly designed, 55-year-old artesian water supply system, that has become increasingly unreliable and difficult to maintain, with a new groundwater well of modern design.

- The requirements of the PSP are significant and relatively complex, particularly so to a very small water district. The need for establishing criteria for proposal evaluation is recognized, and is most beneficial for evaluating large and complex water projects. Our need however was simply to provide a safe supply of water for domestic use. It is difficult to justify the need for basic domestic water in terms of cost/benefit analyses or water quality benefits. Having reliable, safe domestic water is a most basic human need. The need for elaborate criteria evaluation structures is somewhat burdensome and overly detailed for a simple well project.
- The PSP and other DWR documents refer to the need to support tribes and DACs. Although our district is not strictly in that category, our size and volunteer structure put us in a similar disadvantage when responding to elaborate proposal requirements. A small district can not financially support a complex proposal effort, though we can dedicate the time and effort to develop a sound project plan, schedule and budget to support the project that we are proposing. In the case of our project (No. 4), we believe that we have done that. We had substantial difficulty trying to fulfill the detailed PSP requirements for economic analyses and water quality benefits. The water quality benefit is basically having good, safe water to drink and use within the household. It would seem that there might be some way of evaluating relatively simple projects considering the fact that they are just that -- simple and straightforward (logical evaluation over analysis).

On a larger scale, the Inyo-Mono region is fairly vast and has many diversified water-related needs such as does our district. This is our RWMG's collective first effort to seek grants that can significantly and beneficially affect many small projects and communities. Our district would appreciate a forum that considers how small water operations can effectively participate in the DWR mandate. At present, that is unclear.

Thank you for your consideration of our efforts,

Harvey VanDyke, Manager  
Wheeler Crest CSD